

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 275391

62

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCSE-00 H-02 SCA-01 L-02 PRS-01 PA-02

USIA-15 RSC-01 /035 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/BC/C:AISAACS:BJD

APPROVED BY ARA/BC:JEKARKASHIAN

SCS:CANDERSON

ARA/PAF:KMARSHALL

----- 081020

R 162333Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS STATE 275391

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, CASC (O'FLAHERTY, AMY CONGER)

SUBJECT: W/W AMY CONGER O'FLAHERTY

1. CONGRESSIONAL SOURCE HAS PROVIDED COPY OF FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM, DATED DECEMBER 3, IN WHICH MS. CONGER DESCRIBES HER EXPERIENCES OCTOBER 23-31.

2. QUOTE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23: IN THE MORNING INTER-ROGATORS HAD COME, AS THEY HAD ALSO TUESDAY EVENING, TO REMIND ME THAT I HAD BETTER WRITE MY CONFESSION. THEY WERE QUITE ANGRY AND TOLD ME THAT MY ALTERNATIVE WAS TORTURE AND A 30 YEAR SENTENCE. I ASKED AGAIN TO SPEAK TO THE CONSUL. THEY REFUSED, AS ALWAYS, AND THEY TOLD ME THAT THEY WOULD RETURN IN THE AFTERNOON AND I'D BETTER HAVE IT READY, OR ELSE.

QUOTE: AT ABOUT 4 PM LT. COL. CEBALLOS CAME TO GET THE CONFESSION. I HAD IT WRITTEN. HE TOOK IT, LED ME UPSTAIRS TO AN OFFICE, TOOK SEVERAL PHOTO-COPIES OF THE CONFESSION, TOLD THE SECRETARY TO TYPE IT OUT AND LEFT US. IN ABOUT 15 MINUTES HE RETURNED, ASKED HOW IT WAS COMING, COMPLAINED AND LEFT. HE REPEATED THIS TWICE MORE AND THE LAST TIME, UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 275391

TOOK ME WITH HIM.

QUOTE: HE SAID TO ME IN A THREATENING VOICE: "I DON'T WANT YOU TO FORGET HOW WELL WE'VE TREATED YOU."

QUOTE: I ANSWERED: "OH YES--AND ALL THE TIMES I HAVE ASKED TO SPEAK TO THE CONSUL. . . "

QUOTE: HE REPLIED VERY FIRMLY; "YOU NEVER ASKED TO SPEAK TO THE CONSUL."

QUOTE: I WAS APPALLED AND SAID: "WHAT? I'VE ASKED EVERY TIME I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO SPEAK TO THE CONSUL"

QUOTE: CEBALLOS CONTESTED: "NO. I WAS ALWAYS SURPRISED THAT YOU WERE SO CALM AND PEACEFUL AND NEVER ASKED TO SPEAK TO HIM."

QUOTE: I ASKED: "WHAT ABOUT THE FIRST FRIDAY NIGHT? AND THEN SATURDAY MORNING? AND" THEN LISTED SEVERAL OTHER OCCASIONS.

QUOTE: HE THEN SAID FIRMLY: "YOU NEVER ASKED TO SPEAK TO THE CONSUL".

QUOTE: HE THEN LED ME INTO AN IMMENSE HALL WHERE I SAW MR. PURDY, US CONSUL IN SANTIAGO, STANDING, FACING THE DOOR. HE SAID "GOOD AFTERNOON". I ANSWERED THE SAME AND WE SHOOK HANDS. HE ASKED ME HOW I WAS AND I SAID OK. HE THEN SAID SOMETHING ABOUT HOW QUICKLY THEY HAD ARRIVED AND I REPLIED THAT I DIDN'T FEEL THAT 13 DAYS WAS VERY QUICK. HE SHOWED SURPRISE HAVING THOUGHT THAT I HAD BEEN THERE ONLY A FEW DAYS. HE EXPLAINED THEN THAT HE HAD RECEIVED WORD OF MY ARREST AT ABOUT 10 AM ON THAT DAY (LATER IT WAS CLARIFIED THAT IT WAS THE DAY BEFORE THAT HE HAD BEEN NOTIFIED) AND THAT MY FATHER HAD CALLED FROM THE UNITED STATES.

QUOTE: THEY SAT ME DOWN NEXT TO MR. HALL ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE TABLE. I WAS INTRODUCED TO COL. IBAIZA AND TO LT. COL. CEBALLOS. THERE WERE AT LEAST TWO OTHER OFFICERS PRESENT. MR. HALL LEANED OVER AND ASKED ME HOW I HAD BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 275391

TREATED. I STARTED TO TELL HIM ABOUT HOW THEY HAD "LET" ME FALL DOWN THE STAIRS WHEN I NOTICED THAT IBAIZA WAS LISTENING CAREFULLY AND STARING HOSTILELY. I TOLD HALL THAT I'D FINISH LATER REALIZING THAT I WOULD NEVER GET OUT IF THE MILITARY GOT IN AN ANGRY DISCUSSION WITH THE CONSULATE OFFICERS AND THAT FRANKLY I WOULD PAY FOR IT.

QUOTE: THE CONVERSATION CHANGED TO HOW MANY DAYS I WOULD NEED TO GET MY TAX PAPERS IN ORDER TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, TO THE FACT THAT THEY FORBADE ME TO GO TO ARGENTINA (WHERE MY HUSBAND LIVES), TO PERU, TO BOLIVIA, URUGUAY OR PARAGUAY, AND TO THE FACT THAT I WOULD HAVE TO BE UNDER THE SURVEILLANCE OF THE US CONSULATE 24 HOURS A DAY SO THAT I

WOULDN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH MY "SUBVERSIVE" FRIENDS. MR. PURDY NOTED THAT IT WAS ALREADY QUITE LATE IN THE DAY, THAT HE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I COULD STAY BECAUSE THERE WEREN'T ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE CONSULATE, MOST OF THE CONSULATE PERSONNEL HAD ALREADY GONE HOME AND HE HAD A RELATIVE OCCUPYING HIS GUEST ROOM. CEBALLOS SAID THAT THEY COULD CONTINUE KEEPING ME IN ACADEMY. PURDY ASKED ME IF I WOULD MIND SPENDING ANOTHER NIGHT IN THE ACADEMY UNTIL THEY COULD FIND A PLACE AND I ANSWERED "YOU KNOW, IT ISN'T EXACTLY LIKE HOME". AND SO PURDY ASKED TO USE THE PHONE, MADE A CALL, ARRANGED SOMETHING ABOUT A PLACE FOR ME AND AGREED THAT HE WOULD COME BACK FOR ME LATER, WHEN THEY WEREDONE WITH ME, BECAUSE HE LIVED NEAR BY.

QUOTE: AT SOME POINT HERE, CEBALLOS SAID THAT HE WOULDN'T ARREST ME AGAIN IF I LEFT THE COUNTRY IN 5 DAYS BUT THAT HE COULDN'T GUARANTEE THAT SOMEONE ELSE WOULDN'T. WE ALL UNDERSTOOD WHAT HE WAS SUGGESTING.

QUOTE: I WAS TAKEN TO FINISH DICTATING THE CONFESSION. THEN THEY BROUGHT ME DOWNSTAIRS AGAIN. LATER UPSTAIRS TO SIGN. THEY TOLD ME TO SIGN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE, LEAVING ALMOST THE ENTIRE LAST PAGE BLANK. I ASKED WHY AND THEY SAID THAT THEY WANTED TO ADD SOME THINGS. I SIGNED THE LAST PAGE JUST A LITTLE BELOW THE PRINT.

QUOTE: I WAS BROUGHT DOWNSTAIRS AGAIN. A LITTLE WHILE
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 275391

LATER THEY BROUGHT ME UPSTAIRS AGAIN TO RETURN MY PERSONAL POSSESSIONS AND TAKE BACK THEIR BLINDFOLD. PURDY ENTERED DURING THE PROCESS AND THE OFFICERS THERE SHOWED OFF TO HIM THE WEAPONS THAT THEY HAD GOTTEN FROM POLITICAL PRISONERS: ONE HAND GRENADE, A LOT OF BULLETS, A PISTOL, A GERMAN SUB-MACHINE GUN FROM WORLD WAR II AND A RIFLE WITH A BAYONET FROM THE TIME OF THE WAR OF THE PACIFIC, ABOUT 1880.

QUOTE: THEN THEY LED US OUTSIDE AND MR. PURDY TOLD ME TO FOLLOW HIM IN MY CAR--WHICH THEY HAD TAKEN. WE LEFT. I WAS VERY SHAKY DRIVING.

QUOTE; WE WENT BY MY APARTMENT TO GET CLEAN CLOTHES. THE FIRST THING THAT IMPRESSED US ENTERING WAS THE SMELL OF ROTTING GARBAGE WHICH HAD BEEN PRETTY MUCH DISPERSED IN THE HOUSE. THE LIVING ROOM HAD BEEN TORN APART, BROKEN RECORDS AND CHINA ON THE FLOOR, BOOKS AND PAPERS THRO N AROUND, BED CLOTHES AND CLOTHING ALL OVER THE PLACE, FURNITURE TURNED OVER, DRAWERS UPSIDE DOWN, GARBAGE, ETC. I STARTED LOOKING FOR A CHANGE OF CLOTHES. MR. PURDY SHOVED THINGS OFF A CHAIR, SAT DOWN AND COMMENTED: "YOU'RE NOT

MUCH ON HOUSEKEEPING, ARE YOU?"

QUOTE: WE LOOKED IN THE STUDY-DARK ROOM WHICH WAS ALMOST IMPASSABLE AND HE NOTED: "HOW STRANGE THAT THEY DIDN'T BOTHER WITH THE BOOKS" (OR TO THAT EFFECT) AND I REPLIED "WHAT DO YOU MEAN THAT THEY DIDN'T EXAMINE THEM? OBVIOUSLY THERE WASN'T SPACE TO LEAVE THEM ON THE FLOOR BUT I DON'T KEEP MY BOOKS IN THE BOOKSHELF WITH THE BINDING TOWARDS THE WALL".

QUOTE: I GOT THROUGH TO THE REFRIGERATOR, OPENED THE DOOR, WAS PRACTICALLY KNOCKED OVER BY THE SMELL AND FOUND THAT IT WAS CRAWLING WITH WHITE WORMS BECAUSE THEY HAD UNPLUGGED IT AND THE MEAT INSIDE HAD DECOMPOSED.

QUOTE: I COMMENTED THAT IT LOOKED LIKE THEY HAD STOLEN NOT ONLY A PHOTOGRAPHIC LENS BUT ALSO MY UNDERPANTS. HE ADDED THAT THEY HAD PROBABLY DRUNK THE WINE ALSO. I CHECKED AND TOLD HIM THAT HE WAS RIGHT.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 275391

QUOTE: WE LEFT AND WENT TO THE HOUSE OF THE VICE-CONSUL DALE SCHAEFFER (SIC) WHO WAS OUT AT A COCKTAIL PARTY BUT WOULD BE BACK ABOUT 11 (IT WAS THEN ABOUT 8). WE FOUND THAT THE TELEPHONE WAS LOCKED UP SO THAT I HAD TO WAIT UNTIL THE SCHAEFFERS GOT BACK TO CALL MY FATHER IN THE USA AND MY HUSBAND IN ARGENTINA. THE MAID FIXED BACON AND EGGS AND I FINALLY BATHED AFTER 13 DAYS.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24: I WENT TO THE CONSULATE WITH THE SCHAEFFERS AND WAITED OUTSIDE MR. PURDY'S OFFICE FOR WHILE. AFTERWARDS HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD A REPORTER (AP OR UP) IN HIS OFFICE AND DIDN'T WANT HIM TO KNOW ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED. I ASKED HIM EXACTLY HOW HE HAD HEARD (SINCE I HAD SPOKEN TO MY FATHER). HE WAS A LITTLE CONFUSED BUT FINALLY REMEMBERED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED MY FATHER'S PHONE CALL ABOUT 10 AM ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 AND NOT ON WEDNESDAY, AS HE HAD TOLD ME BEFORE. I TOLD HIM ABOUT MY TREATMENT IN THE ACADEMY AND I SAID THAT I WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH MYSELF FOR FINALLY HAVING BROKEN DOWN AND HAVING SIGNED "SUCH A PACK OF FAT LIES".

QUOTE: MR. HALL CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE AND ASKED ME ABOUT HOW THEY HAD GOTTEN THE CONFESSION AND I EXPLAINED THAT THEY HAD THREATENED ME FIRST WITH RAPE AND THEN WITH SENDING ME FOR TORTURE AT THE DINA. THAT WAS ALL HE WANTED TO KNOW SO HE SENT A CABLE (TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT?) SAYING I HAD BEEN FORCED TO SIGN A CONFESSION UNDER EXTREME DURESS. HE TOLD ME THAT WHEN I LEFT THE COUNTRY I COULD GO WHEREVER I WANTED TO GO AND THAT THE CHILEAN MILITARY COULD NOT FORBID ME GOING TO PERU OR ANYWHERE ELSE.

QUOTE: I CALLED MY ASSISTANT AT THE UNIVERSITY ON THE PHONE. HE CAME WITH HIS CAR AND MR. PURDY SENT US OUT ACCOMPANIED BY A JANITOR-MESSENGER FROM THE CONSULATE TO START GETTING MY PAPERS, SO I COULD PAY MY TAXES AND GET MY TICKET TO LEAVE. I CAME BACK AT LUNCH TIME AND SEVERAL PEOPLE WERE EATING IN HIS OFFICE, SINCE THEY WERE ON DIETS. THEY WERE LAUGHING ABOUT MY EXPERIENCES IN THE ACADEMY. I RECOMMENDED THE ACADEMY DIET FOR THOSE OF THEM THAT WANTED TO LOSE WEIGHT QUICKLY (SINCE I HAD LOST ABOUT 10 LBS. IN 13 DAYS).

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 275391

QUOTE: I WENT OUT AGAIN IN THE AFTERNOON WITH THE EMPLOYEE TO WORK ON THE PAPERS, TICKET, ETC. AND CAME BACK ABOUT 5. I PASSED MR. HALL ON THE STAIRS AND COMMENTED THAT THE NEXT DAY, FRIDAY, I HAD TO GO TO THE INTERNATIONAL POLICE TO GET MY SAFECONDUCT AND THAT FRANKLY I WAS NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO IT. HE OFFERED TO ACCOMPANY ME AND SAID THAT HE WOULD CALL AHEAD. I RETURNED TO MR. SCHAEFFER'S HOUSE. OVER COCKTAILS AND DINNER I DESCRIBED MY ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT TO THEM AND MRS. SCHAEFFER COMMENTED THAT IT SOUNDED LIKE "GULAG ARCHIPELAGO".

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25: I WENT BACK TO THE CONSULATE, WAITED AWHILE IN MR. SCHAEFFER'S OFFICE AND THEN MR. PURDY SENT FOR THE EMPLOYEE. I WENT OUT WITH HIM AND MY TWO ASSISTANTS TO GO TO THE UNIVERSITY, TO FINISH UP THE TAX JAZZ AND TO GET THE TICKET FROM THE AIRLINE COMPANY. I NEVER GOT TO THE UNIVERSITY. THERE WERE COMPLICATIONS IN THE RED TAPE AT THE TAX OFFICE SO I COULDN'T PAY THE EXIT TAX RIGHT AWAY. I WENT TO THE AIRLINE COMPANY ABOUT NOON AND RECEIVED A MESSAGE TO CALL THE CONSULATE WHERE MR. SCHAEFFER ORDERED ME TO COME BACK TO THE CONSULATE IMMEDIATELY. I RETURNED AND FOUND OUT THAT TO FACILITATE THINGS IN INTERNATIONAL POLICE, MR. HALL HAD CALLED THE PREFECT AND THAT THINGS WERE BUNGLED UP OVER THERE AND THEY WOULDN'T GIVE ME A SAFECONDUCT. THEY TOLD ME TO STAY IN THE CONSULATE UNTIL THEY GOT IT STRAIGHTENED OUT. IT TURNED OUT THAT WHEN THEY HAD ARRESTED AND BOOKED ME ON OCTOBER 7TH FOR BEING A FRIEND OF THE AUNT-BY-MARRIAGE OF SOMEONE THEY WERE LOOKING FOR THEY HAD NEVER BOTHERED TO ENTER ON THE RECORDS THE FACT THAT I HAD BEEN GIVEN UNCONDITIONAL LIBERTY ON THE SAME DAY. THE CONSULATE SENT A MILITARY ATTACHE TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TO STRAIGHTEN IT OUT. MR. HALL PICKED UP A PAPER AT THE EMBASSY AND WE WENT TO THE POLICE WHERE WE HAD TO WAIT IN THE PREFECT'S OFFICE FOR AN HOUR BECAUSE THE PREFECT FELT THAT THE STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE SAYING THAT THEY HAD PLACED ME IN LIBERTY ON THE 7TH CONTRADICTED (NOT CLARIFIED) THE STATEMENT THAT I HAD BEEN ARRESTED ON THE SAME DAY. FINALLY WE GOT THE SAFECONDUCT AND WE LEFT. I RETURNED TO THE SCHAEFFER'S HOUSE FOR THE NIGHT.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 275391

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26: I WENT WITH THE EMPLOYEE TO GET THE TICKET AND DISCOVERED THAT MR. PURDY HAD CHANGED IT FROM MONDAY TO SUNDAY AND FROM DESTINATION LIMA TO MIAMI. I TOOK IT AND WENT HOME TO PACK. AT ABOUT 6 I WENT TO THE SCHAEFFERS.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27: I WENT BACK TO MY HOUSE TO CONTINUE PACKING WITH MY TWO ASSISTANTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY (BUT WITHOUT THE CONSULATE EMPLOYEE--THEY FELT THAT IT WASN'T NECESSARY BECAUSE I HAD THE SAFECONDUCT. HOWEVER, I ADVISED MY FRIENDS VERY CAREFULLY ABOUT WHAT THEY SHOULD DO IN CASE. . .) I RETURNED TO THE SCHAEFFER'S HOUSE IN THE LATE AFTERNOON, BATHED, CHANGED AND GOT MY THINGS READY. MR. PURDY PICKED ME UP TO GO TO THE AIRPORT. EN ROUTE HE EXPLAINED TO ME THAT REALLY THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO HOLD ANYONE INCOMUNICADO FOR 5 DAYS AND THEN THEY CAN RENEW IT FOR AS LONG AS THEY WANT. I ASKED ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND HE SAID THAT THEY WEREN'T IN EFFECT YET. I TOLD HIM ABOUT THE THINGS THAT WERE DEFINITELY STOLEN FROM MY HOUSE:

QUOTE: 1 CAMERA LENS (ABOUT DOLS 180)
1 GOLD WEDDING RING (A00UT DOLS 100)
1 GOLD COIN (ABOUT DOLS 75)
BROKEN RECORDS (DOLS 35)
BROKEN CHINA (DOLS 25)
6 UNDERPANTS (DOLS 20)
5 LITERS OF WINE (DOLS 4)
CIGARETTES, CHOCOLATE, FOOD, ETC. (DOLS 10)
AND ABOUT 15 CLIPPINGS FROM FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS
ABOUT CHILE.

HE STAYED WITH ME UNTIL I LEFT THE AIRPORT TO BOARD THE PLANE.

QUOTE: AT NO POINT DID I SIGN ANY STATEMENT FOR THE CONSULATE OR EMBASSY.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31: MY FATHER JAMES G. CONGER SENT A LETTER TO SENATORS ADLAI STEVENSON AND CHARLES PERCY
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 275391

DESCRIBING THE WAY THE CHILEAN MILITARY HAD TREATED ME AND COMPLIMENTING MR. PURDY FOR HAVING GOTTEN ME OUT OF CHILE. THIS LETTER WAS FORWARDED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT. A COPY OF IT IS ATTACHED TO THIS DECLARATION.

QUOTE: DECEMBER 3, 1974 AMY CONGER UNQUOTE.

KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE275391
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/BC/C:AISAACS:BJD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D740366-0363
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741276/abbrzafv.tel
Line Count: 328
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by colstocv>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W AMY CONGER O'FLAHERTY
TAGS: CASC, CI, (O'FLAHERTY, AMY CONGER)
To: SANTIAGO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005